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MASSACHUSETTS CONGREGATIONAL
CHARITABLE SOCIETY



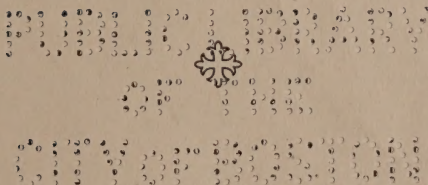
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ACT OF INCORPORATION
AND
BY LAWS
OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS CONGREGATIONAL
CHARITABLE SOCIETY



WITH A LIST OF THE
OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE
SOCIETY, MAY 8, 1917



BOSTON

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1917

Rev. Edward Hale
Oct. 11. 1917

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ACT OF INCORPORATION.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

In the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-six.

An Act incorporating a Society by the name of the MASSACHUSETTS CONGREGATIONAL CHARITABLE SOCIETY.

WHEREAS, a number of Congregational Ministers, within this Commonwealth, have petitioned, and it appears to the General Court expedient, that a number of persons be incorporated into a Society for the humane and benevolent purposes of affording relief and support to the widows and children of deceased ministers, and other persons herein mentioned :

Be it therefore enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court Assembled, and by the authority of the same, That Thomas Barnard, Clerk, Stephen Choate, Esq., Caleb Davis, Esq., Benjamin Goodhue, Esq., Nathaniel Gorham, Esq., John Hancock, Esq., Jason Haven, Clerk, Timothy Hilliard, Clerk, Simeon Howard, Doctor of Divinity, Joseph Jackson, Clerk, John Lathrop, Doctor of Divinity, Phillips Payson, Clerk, William Phillips, Esq., Samuel Phillips, Jun'r, Esq., Daniel Shute, Clerk, Caleb Strong, Esq., James Sullivan, Esq., Peter Thatcher, Clerk, Oliver Wendell, Esq., and Joseph Willard, Doctor of Divinity, be, and they are hereby incorporated into a Society, by the name, stile, and title of the *Massachusetts Congregational Charitable Society*; and that they, and such others as shall be duly elected into the said Corporation, shall be and remain a body politic and corporate by the same name, stile and title forever.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That the said society and corporation shall be capable of receiving, and shall have power to receive from any person or persons, disposed to aid the benevolent purposes of the Institution, any grants or devises of lands or tenements, in fee simple, or for a lesser estate, and all donations and bequests of money or any other personal thing ; and to use and improve the same for the purposes and according to the directions herein mentioned and provided.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That all grants, donations, devises, and bequests made to the said Society, of any real or personal estate, shall be by the said Society used and improved to the best advantage ; and the annual income thereof shall be by them applied to the support of such widows and children of deceased Congregational Ministers, who have been or shall be settled within this Commonwealth, and of the widows and children of the President and Professors of the University in Cambridge, as in the opinion of the said Corporation shall be proper objects of the said charity. *Provided nevertheless,* that the said Society, if at any time they shall judge it will best answer the good purposes of their Institution, may increase their capital by placing a part of the said income at interest, or by purchasing real estate therewith ; and they shall have power also to take a part of the principal of their personal estate, and bestow it on the widows and children before mentioned, if it is consistent with the directions of the donor.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the said Society and Corporation shall at their Annual Meeting in May, have power to

elect by ballot, any other person or persons as members of the said Society. *Provided always*, that the said Society shall not at any time consist of more than thirty members: *Provided also*, that the same proportion be observed in the said elections between the Clergy and Laity, which is observed in this Act.

And be it further enacted, That when it shall appear to the said Society, that the changing any real property into personalestate, will best answer the intentions of this Institution, the said Corporation shall have full power, unless it is expressly ordered otherwise by the donor, to sell and convey the same; *Provided*, that the moneys for which the said real estate shall be sold, shall always be applied to the same use to which the income of the estate sold, was before applicable.

And be it further enacted, That the said Society may have one common seal, which they may change and renew at pleasure; and that all deeds, conveyances, and grants, covenants and agreements, made by their Treasurer, or any other person by their authority and direction, according to their institution shall be good and valid; and the same Corporation shall at all times have power to sue, and may be sued, and may defend, and shall be held to answer by the name, stile and title aforesaid.

Be it further enacted, That the said Society shall hereafter meet at Boston, or such other place as they may think proper within the State, some time in the month of May, annually, and as much oftener as they may judge expedient; and any seven members of the said Corporation, the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, or Secretary being one, shall be a quorum; and the said Society at their meetings in May annually, shall have power to elect and chuse a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and all other such officers as to them shall appear necessary: which officers so chosen shall continue in office one year; and all officers so chosen shall be under oath to the faithful performance of the duties of their offices respectively.

And be it further enacted, That the said Society hereby are and forever shall be vested with the power of making Bye-laws, for the more orderly managing the business of the Corporation: *Provided*, such laws are not repugnant to the laws of the Commonwealth, or the principles of the Constitution of the same; nor shall any penalty by them provided, exceed the sum of twenty shillings; *and it is nevertheless provided*, that the rents of the real estate, together with the interest of the personal estate of the said Society shall never exceed the annual income of three thousand pounds.

And it is further enacted, That Simeon Howard, *Doctor of Divinity*, be and he hereby is authorized by public notification in two of the Boston Newspapers, to call the first meeting of the said Society at such time and place as he shall judge proper; at which meeting the said Corporation shall have all the power hereby vested in them at their annual stated meetings in May; but the officers by them chosen shall not continue in office, longer than the next May meeting, unless they shall be elected anew.

In the House of Representatives, March 24th, 1786. This Bill having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

(Signed) ARTEMAS WARD, *Speaker.*

In Senate, March 24th, 1786. This Bill, having had two several readings, passed to be enacted.

(Signed) SAMUEL PHILLIPS, JR., *President.*

By the Governor approved.

JAMES BOWDOIN.

A true copy.—Attest,

JOHN AVERY, JUN'R, *Secretary.*

BY LAWS

OF THE

Massachusetts Congregational Charitable Society.

I. OF MEETINGS, ANNUAL AND SPECIAL.

THE Massachusetts Congregational Charitable Society shall hold its Annual Meeting at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, on the second Tuesday of every month of May, in the City of Boston, at such place as may be appointed by the notice hereinafter provided. Special Meetings, called by direction of the President, or, in case of his death or absence, by direction of the Vice-President, or, in case of a similar failure of both, then by direction of the Treasurer, or of any two members of the Council, may also be held after a similar notice; — all notifications of special meetings announcing the special business for which they may be called.

II. OF THE CHOICE OF OFFICERS.

Besides a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, and a Secretary, who shall, at each annual meeting, be chosen as prescribed in the Act of Incorporation, and who shall hold their offices till other persons are duly elected and qualified to fill them respectively, there shall be chosen, at the same meeting, a Council consisting of five members.

III. OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT.

The President, or, in his absence, the Vice-President, shall preside at all meetings of the Society; and, in the absence of both, a President *pro tempore* shall be chosen by a hand vote of the members present.

IV. OF THE TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall pay no moneys except on vote of the Society. He shall keep regular accounts, which shall always be open to every member of the Society, and he shall, at every annual meeting, report to the Society an exact statement of all his doings for the year preceding, and of the amount and condition of all the property of the Society in his hands. He shall pay each year to the Treasurer of the Convention the income of the Convention Fund. He shall make all necessary changes in investments, with the approval, in writing, of two members of the Council. In case of his death, or inability arising from sickness or absence, the President shall act as Treasurer, with all his powers, until the next annual meeting of the Society.

V. OF THE SECRETARY.

The Secretary, or, in case of his death or inability, the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations shall warn all meetings of the Society by notifications sent through the Post Office to each member, not less than four nor more than ten days before the time appointed for the meetings respectively; such notifications specifying any vacancy or vacancies that may have occurred by death or otherwise, among the members of the Society, since the last annual meeting. He shall notify of their election all persons who may be chosen members of the Society. He shall notify

the Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers at its annual meeting, or the Scribe of the same, what is the amount of the Funds of said Convention in trust with this Society and what is the amount of the income of said funds for the year preceding, as both shall have been set forth in the last accounts of the Treasurer of this Society. And he shall keep a nomination book, as hereinafter provided, and an exact record of all the proceedings of the Society at all its meetings, with the names of the members present at each; entering in full the Treasurer's annual accounts and statements, the annual list of beneficiaries, and all reports of committees that may have been accepted by the Society.

VI. OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council shall advise any officer of the Society in the discharge of his duties whenever requested by him so to do, or whenever they may deem it for the interest of the Society that it should be done.

VII. OF COMMITTEES.

Two Committees shall be appointed at each annual meeting, — viz.:

First. — A Committee on Appropriations, consisting of not less than three members, who shall, at the next annual meeting after their appointment, report the names of the persons whom they may consider most suitable to become Beneficiaries of the Society, for the year next following the presentation of such report, together with the sum of money they may consider suitable to be given by the Society to each; — provided always, that said Committee shall propose appropriations to no persons except indigent widows and indigent children of deceased Congrega-

tional Ministers, who have been settled as Congregational Ministers within this Commonwealth, nothing, however, in this article being intended to affect the claims of any widows or children of Congregational clergymen who were settled in the State of Maine while that State was a part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Second.—There shall be appointed, as aforesaid, a Committee consisting of not less than three members, whose duty it shall be carefully to examine the Treasurer's accounts, and, at the next annual meeting after their appointment, to report thereon, and on the state of all the funds held by the Society, but especially on the investments of the year preceding such examination.

Both the committees thus provided for and all other committees shall be nominated by the Chair, unless otherwise especially ordered by the Society.

VIII. OF MEMBERS.

All members shall be chosen at the annual meetings by ballot, as required by the Act of Incorporation; but no person shall be elected unless he shall have been nominated in writing at some previous meeting in a nomination book kept by the Secretary for that purpose, and produced by him at all meetings of the Society; and if any person elected as a member shall fail to signify his acceptance for one year, after being notified by the Secretary of his election, such election shall be void.

IX. OF BY LAWS.

Any or all of these By Laws may be amended, altered, or repealed by the vote of a majority of the members of the Society present at any meeting, duly called and held, the notice for which meeting shall have set forth the purpose of proposing such amendment, alteration, or repeal.

THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

May 8, 1917.

Rev. THEODORE DAVENPORT BACON	Rev. EDWARD HALE
HON. JOHN ALVIN BENNETT	Rev. CHARLES ALFRED HUMPHREYS
ELLAS BULLARD BISHOP, Esq.	Rev. HENRY FITCH JENKS
JOHN AMORY LOWELL BLAKE, Esq.	ARTHUR STODDARD JOHNSON, Esq.
*FRANCIS HENRY BROWN, M.D.	HON. MARCUS PERRIN KNOWLTON
Rev. HOWARD NICHOLSON BROWN, D.D.	ARTHUR LÖRD, Esq.
FRANCIS LOWELL COOLIDGE, Esq.	JOHN WELLS MORSS, Esq.
Rev. JAMES DE NORMANDIE, D.D.	GRENVILLE HOWLAND NORCROSS, Esq.
HENRY HERBERT EDES, Esq.	Rev. CHARLES LOTHROP NOYES, D.D.
Rev. FREDERICK ERNEST EMRICH, D.D.	Rev. CHARLES EDWARDS PARK, D.D.
Rev. Professor WILLIAM WALLACE FENN, D.D.	Rev. Professor JAMES HARDY ROPES, D.D.
Rev. Professor ALBERT PARKER FITCH, D.D.	RICHARD MIDDLECOTT SALTON- STALL, Esq.
Rev. PAUL REVERE FROTHINGHAM, D.D.	HORACE SCUDDER SEARS, Esq.
Rev. GEORGE ANGIER GORDON, D.D.	Rev. RODERICK STEBBINS
	HON. WINSLOW WARREN
	GEORGE WIGGLESWORTH, Esq.

*Dr. Brown died May 16, 1917.

THE OFFICERS, 1917-1918,
as elected at the Annual Meeting of the Society,
May 8, 1917.

<i>President</i>	HON. WINSLOW WARREN
<i>Vice-President</i>	REV. GEORGE ANGIER GORDON, D.D.
<i>Treasurer</i>	GRENVILLE HOWLAND NORCROSS, Esq.
<i>Secretary</i>	REV. EDWARD HALE
<i>Members of the Council:</i> REV. JAMES DE NORMANDIE, D.D.	
	HENRY HERBERT EDES, Esq.
	REV. PROFESSOR JAMES HARDY ROPES, D.D.
	HON. JOHN ALVIN BENNETT
	GEORGE WIGGLESWORTH, Esq.

